



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY**

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) is conducting two days of public hearings in connection with its inquiry into Young Driver Safety and Education Programs.

The public hearings will provide an opportunity for the Staysafe Committee to take evidence from a range of organisations which have made submissions the inquiry. The Chair of the Staysafe Committee, Mr Geoff Corrigan, State Member for Camden, announced that “the level of interest in the Committee’s inquiry has been very high, with close to 70 submissions having been received from groups and individuals with direct involvement in this very important area of public policy”.

The high level of community concern with the safety of young drivers has prompted the Committee’s investigation and has emphasised the need to examine and make recommendations to address the underlying causes of the high incidence of young driver fatalities. “The Committee will focus on the availability and adequacy of appropriate driver education programs targeting this at risk group”, Mr Corrigan said.

The following issues will be pursued during the course of the Committee’s hearings:

- The incidence of road crashes involving young drivers;
- The major factors contributing to such accidents;
- Differences in driving behaviour and crash outcomes in urban and rural areas;
- The availability and appropriateness of diversionary programs for young driver offenders; and
- The effectiveness of young driver education programs.

The public hearings will be held on 19 and 20 February 2008, in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House. The full hearing program is attached.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Committee website at <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe> or by contacting Mr Geoff Corrigan, Chairman, on (02) 4655 3333 or Mr Bjarne Nordin, Senior Committee Officer, on (02) 9230 2843.

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